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June 9th, 1999

Mr. Lyle D. Jaffe  
Dockets Management  
FDA/DHHS  
12420 Parklawn Dr.,  
Room 1-23  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

Subject: **Forced Molting of Layer Hens**

It is amazing how low humanity can stoop for the greed of money, in particular to excessive cruelty to the animal kingdom that share in the wealth of this planet. Governments at all levels are the representatives of society, therefore animal abuse lies at their feet, not the perpetrators in some sections of society. Because as the government allows, society will do.

It appears, as usual, governments bow to those with the money who can lobby the most, and in this instance, the egg farmers. The hens under their control have a miserable life, for example they have their beaks partially removed in a callous manner, overcrowding in cages and now added to this, forced molting by starvation. How much more cruelty can we impose on these unfortunate creatures? If the majority of people knew of these facts, forced molting would be banned, but of course, there is much effort to hide these conditions so as to maintain egg sales high and cheap.

I believe the time has arrived for governments to ban this awful practice once and for all.

Yours sincerely,



Michael W. Paul

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